

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING NOLAN K. STARK FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nolan K. Stark, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 41, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nolan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Nolan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nolan K. Stark for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

### HONORING THE NATIONAL ASSO- CIATION FOR THE ADVANCE- MENT OF COLORED PEOPLE (NAACP)

#### HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People—NAACP—for its 97 years of faithful service as champions of social justice on behalf of African-Americans and for fighting for almost a century so that all Americans could realize and experience the American dream. The NAACP has always been comprised of dedicated people who would not stand still while the rights of Americans of color were denied and they have built a legacy on ensuring that every single American was able to carry out their lives under the full protection of the law.

From the ballot box to the classroom, the dedicated workers, organizers, and leaders who make up this tremendous organization and maintain its status as an immense civil rights organization have been continuously fighting on the frontlines for social and economic justice.

Since the foundation of this great organization was laid down more than a century ago alongside the banks of the Niagara Falls, this movement has fought long and hard to ensure that the voices of African-American women and men would be heard. The legacy of pioneers such as W.E.B. DuBois, Thurgood Marshall, Rosa Parks, Mary Mcleod Bethune, Mary White Ovington, Joel Elias Spingarn and Roy Wilkins, along with the hundreds of thou-

sands of nameless faces who worked tirelessly can not and must not be forgotten.

The history of the NAACP is one of sacrifice and suffering. From bold investigations of terrorist lynching, protests of mass murders, segregation and discrimination, to testimony before congressional committees on the vicious tactics used to bar African-Americans from the ballot box, it was the talent, determination, and tenacity of NAACP members that saved lives and changed many negative aspects of American society.

Mr. Speaker, Medgar Evers was a World War II veteran and a field secretary for the NAACP. This proud member of the NAACP was one of the many martyrs of the civil rights movement and his assassination at the hands of a white supremacist from Mississippi in 1963 helped prompt President John Kennedy to ask Congress for a comprehensive civil-rights bill, which President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the following year. Because of the continuous sacrifice of NAACP leaders and members like Medgar Evers, America is a better place than it was 40 years ago and because of the continuous effort of the NAACP America will provide a better tomorrow for all of our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People—NAACP—for its 97 years of faithful service on behalf of African-Americans as champions of social justice and for its leadership in the continuous struggle for civil and human rights for all.

### MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, once again this Republican led Congress is exercising an election year ploy with their attempt today to demonize gay and lesbian Americans. H.J. Res. 88 is an attempt to write hate and discrimination into our Nation's Constitution and disgracefully use this House to advance a cynical and cruel political agenda. While my Republican colleagues are actively working to transform the Constitution into a document of discrimination by passing H.J. Res. 88, the rest of America is concerned about very real and serious issues that this Congress is ignoring.

American families are concerned about real issues that affect their daily lives like the price of gasoline as it rises above \$3 per gallon, the deteriorating situation in Iraq that is costing the American people the lives of their loved ones and \$3 billion per week, and they are deeply concerned about the skyrocketing cost of healthcare and prescription drugs while at the same time insurance and drug companies report massive profits. The American people

are not threatened by men and women in loving and committed relationships. They are threatened and at risk by a do-nothing Congress that ignores the real challenges facing America.

President Bush and his followers seek to permanently enshrine discrimination and hate as part of our Constitution. Nothing could be more disgraceful and fundamentally un-American. I am committed to defeat this intolerance and work tirelessly for equal rights, justice and respect for all Americans. Gay and lesbian Americans are citizens who must never be treated as second class citizens, as H.J. Res. 88 proposes. They must be guaranteed what America's founding fathers called for in the Declaration of Independence when they stated, "all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

I urge my colleagues to reject discrimination and hate by voting against H.J. Res. 88.

### RECOGNIZING JEFFREY AARON WULFF FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeffery Aaron Wulff, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jeffery has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Jeffery has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jeffery Aaron Wulff for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

### HONORING BENJAMIN L. HOOKS

#### HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the life, legacy, and leadership of Benjamin L. Hooks. For 15 years Benjamin L. Hooks presided over America's largest and most influential organization for African-Americans, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP. Under his leadership, the influence of this organization was greatly enhanced, adding several hundred thousand new members to its

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

ranks. Beginning in 1977, when he became executive director of the NAACP, he began issuing formal opinions on topics as diverse as the lack of Black executives in Hollywood, the role of the Black middle class on the improvement of life in the low-income areas, and the 1991 nomination and confirmation of Judge Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Benjamin L. Hooks was born in Memphis, TN in 1925, the fifth of seven children of Robert B. and Bessie Hooks. Although his family was comfortable by so-called Black standards, Hooks would recall wearing hand-me-down clothes and watching his mother stretch the groceries so everyone had enough to eat. Hooks's parents were both hard-working Americans, and his grandmother was the second Black woman in the United States to graduate from college—Berea College in Kentucky.

During the Second World War, Benjamin L. Hooks found himself in the humiliating position of guarding Italian prisoners of war who were allowed to eat in restaurants that were off limits to him because he was not White. The experience helped to deepen his resolve to fight against all forms of discrimination in the United States. After his wartime service—he was promoted to the rank of staff sergeant—he would later head north to Chicago to study law at DePaul University. Even after putting his life on the line for his country, no law school in his native Tennessee would admit him simply because he was not White.

Hooks earned his J.D. degree in 1948 and promptly returned to Memphis, vowing to help break down segregation. He passed the Tennessee Bar examination and opened up his own law practice, confronting prejudice at every turn. By the late 1960s Hooks worked as a judge, a businessman, a lawyer, and a minister. Twice a month he flew to Detroit and preached at the Greater New Mount Moriah Baptist Church. Always dedicated to the civil rights struggle, he constantly made himself available to the NAACP as needed for civil rights protests and marches.

On November 6, 1976, the 64-member board of directors of the NAACP elected Hooks executive director of the prominent civil rights organization. Dr. Hooks and his wife handled the NAACP's business and helped to plan for its future for more than 15 years. He told the New York Times that a "sense of duty and responsibility" to the NAACP compelled him to stay in office through the 1990s. In February of 1992, at the age of 67, he announced his resignation from the post after many years of faithful and dedicated service. The service of this great leader will never go forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the life, legacy, and leadership of Benjamin L. Hooks.

#### HONORING JEANNE SANITATE ON HER ACHIEVEMENTS AT THE VETERANS ANNUAL WHEEL- CHAIR GAMES

#### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeanne Sanitate, a disabled Air Force

veteran from Medford, New Jersey on her three gold medals and one bronze medal in the 26th Annual Veterans Wheelchair Games in Alaska.

The 26th Annual Wheelchair Games took place July 3–8, 2006 and is the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world. This event is committed to improving the quality of life for veterans with disabilities and fostering better health through sports competition. Jeanne Sanitate joined more than 500 people, both novices and experienced athletes, for a week of competition in more than 15 events. Jeanne Sanitate won her gold medals in bowling, Air-Gun Para, and table tennis. She also collected a bronze in softball. This was her first time competing in the games, and she competed as a Class IV in the novice division.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the accomplishments of Jeanne Sanitate at the 26th Annual Veterans Wheelchair Games. I applaud her past service to this country as a veteran and her remarkable athletic abilities and personal achievements.

#### RECOGNIZING SEAN ALEXANDER BURNS-SPRUNG FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sean Alexander Burns-Sprung a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sean has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Sean has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sean Alexander Burns-Sprung for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Caribbean American community in honor of the first-ever National Caribbean American Heritage Month.

On June 27, 2005, the House unanimously adopted H. Con. Res. 71, my resolution to declare June National Caribbean American Heritage Month. On February 14, 2006, the Senate followed suit, thanks to the work of Senator SCHUMER of New York and Arielle Goren on his staff.

And let me begin by recognizing the many people who helped realize this 2-year bipartisan, bicameral effort, because this was quite

a feat. First, I want to recognize our colleague, a great leader on so many issues and especially on health care, Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN from the Caribbean, who has been tremendous in terms of bringing us together to address the issues of health disparities throughout our country and throughout the world.

Also, I would like to thank the Institute of Caribbean Studies, especially Dr. Claire Nelson and her team, for joining us in this effort from the very beginning.

And we must recognize our friends from the Caribbean diplomatic corps, who worked so hard to spread the word about this effort both at home in the Caribbean and in their embassies and consulates across the country.

There are many Members of Congress who supported this effort. In addition to early support from my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus and Friends of the Caribbean Task Force, the former chair of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, Representative Cass Ballenger, was the first Republican to endorse this bill, and his successor, Chairman DAN BURTON, was one of the first to help urge the President to issue an official proclamation.

This was truly a bipartisan effort, with, of course, our chairman Mr. HYDE of the International Relations Committee and our ranking member Mr. LANTOS, who lent their very strong support.

And, of course, we never would have done any of this without our staff. First, let me commend and thank my staff person Jamila Thompson for her leadership and for her commitment to not only this issue and this bill, but for so many of the efforts that she mounts. She has roots in the Bahamas, and she understands the importance of recognizing Caribbean Americans and their proper role and proper recognition in our country.

Also, we had many other House staff members—Ted Brennan, Jack Scharfen, Paul Oostburg, Dan Getz, Mark Walker, and Michael Layman—who worked in a bipartisan way to make this a reality and really to realize this dream for many, many people.

The Government Reform Committee, Chairman TOM DAVIS, and our Ranking Member HENRY WAXMAN applauded the passage of this resolution last year and were instrumental in its passage.

And, of course, in the final weeks before the proclamation was issued by the White House, a coalition was formed that was very instrumental in urging the White House to officially declare June National Caribbean-American Heritage Month. This coalition included Senator MEL MARTINEZ from Florida, Ambassador Tom Shannon, State Department's Assistant Secretary for the Western Hemisphere, and Brian Nichols of his staff.

And the Caribbean American community was very active around this effort. It could not have been done without them. From Glenn Joseph and John Felix in Florida; to Jean Alexander, Horace Morancie, and Anthony Carter in New York; to Shorron Levy in California and so many others across the country, this became, quite frankly, an international grassroots effort.

So I am pleased that on June 5, the President responded by officially declaring June National Caribbean American Heritage Month.

We have some phenomenal spokespersons Sheryl Lee Ralph and basketball legend Rick Fox, who are traveling throughout the country.